

## Civic **Engagement** through Writing

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*Say, Mean, Matter*

### Common Core Alignment

*CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2*: Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

*CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4*: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

### Summary

This is a note-taking technique that students utilize in their exploration of a text. Forcing students to think about the literal meaning and the significance, Say, Mean, Matter can also be utilized to construct argument-based paragraphs.

### Teaching and Learning Purposes:

- To prepare students to read and write about a text
- To help students engage with a primary source at increasingly deeper levels of understanding

**Primary source:** The Declaration of Independence

<http://www.reaganfoundation.org/pdf/Unit%201%20Master%20Pages%2004-6-2011.pdf> (p.34)

**Remember:** This pedagogy works with ANY text and ANY content

### Possible Variations

1. Students could number their responses in each column. Each of the columns could be used at different times in the lesson. For example, the **Say** and **Mean** columns could be completed at the beginning of the lesson and the **Matter** column could be used later in the lesson. These columns could be completed individually, in small groups, or with the whole class.
2. Ask students to select two quotes to support an argument. Using Say, Mean, Matter have students write a body paragraph for an essay. See page 40 of Civics and Citizenship.

### Reflection

How might you adapt this pedagogy to use with YOUR content and YOUR students?



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★ ★ ★ ★



Say Mean Matter		
Say (Paraphrase, Summary or Quote)	Mean	Matter